

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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SOURCE REF:

ROUTING	1	4	7	10
	2	5	8	11
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ITEM NO: WH-3

DATE: 11 OCTOBER 1974

SUBJECT: BOMBINGS IN DAMASCUS

THE LOCAL OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL CASH REGISTER COMPANY IN DAMASCUS WAS BOMBED YESTERDAY AFTER WORKING HOURS. THE US EMBASSY BELIEVES THE BOMBING--THE THIRD IN DAMASCUS IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS--WAS MEANT AS YET ANOTHER WARNING OF OPPOSITION TO THE US PRESENCE IN DAMASCUS AND WAS TIMED SPECIFICALLY TO COINCIDE WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT. THE EMBASSY HAS RAISED THE MATTER WITH SYRIAN AUTHORITIES, WHO HAVE PREDICTABLY ASSURED AMBASSADOR MURPHY THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR CONCERN ABOUT THE WELFARE OF THE SECRETARY AND HIS PARTY OR ANY OTHER US CITIZEN NOW IN DAMASCUS.

THE LATEST BOMBING COMES LESS THAN A MONTH AFTER AN OFFICE BUILDING UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE USIA WAS WRECKED BY A BOMB

DATE: State Department review completed  
ORIG:  
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AND JUST TWO MONTHS AFTER A BOMB WAS SET OFF INSIDE THE US EXHIBIT  
 AT THE DAMASCUS FAIR. THE AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY IN  
 SIDON, LEBANON WAS ALSO BOMBED ON AUGUST 29. ALL THE EXPLOSIONS  
 APPEARED TO BE TIMED TO MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF PERSONAL  
 INJURY.

A GROUP CALLING ITSELF THE ARAB COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION CLAIMED  
 CREDIT FOR THE EARLIER BOMBINGS. NOTHING IS KNOWN ABOUT THE  
 ORGANIZATION OR ITS MEMBERSHIP. WE SUSPECT IT IS A SELF-STYLED  
 NATIONALIST GROUP TRYING TO COVER ITS TRACKS BY CLAIMING TO BE  
 COMMUNIST. [REDACTED]

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SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: MEA DIV AND NIO [REDACTED]

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